GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:733
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005
RISE IN PRICES OF TOMATO AND POTATOES .
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of tomato and potatoes are very high during the current year in comparison with previous years and there is scarcity of these commodities in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of those commodities exported and imported, if any, during the last three years, country-wise alongwith its impact on foreign exchange; and

(d) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government to keep prices of these commodities under control?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): No, Sir. The price of tomato in the country is normal. However, the prices of potato are slightly higher as compared to last year. There is however, no scarcity of the above commodities in the country.

(b): The hike in the price of potatoes have been caused by erratic and unprecedented rainfall which damaged the advance crop in the month of September in States like Punjab and West Bengal. This has led to decreased availability of potato in the markets leading to hike in the prices.

(c): The quantity of these commodities exported and imported is as placed at Annexure − I to IV.

(d): The Government of India has recently launched National Horticulture Mission. The programme under horticultural development aims at increasing the production and productivity of all horticultural crops through adoption of improved technologies in crop production. Emphasis will be given for regionally differentiated crops. Under this component financial assistance is being provide to the farmers for improved cultivation of horticultural crops. National Horticulture Board under the Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storage and Storages for Horticulture Produce provides 25% of the project cost not exceeding Rs.50 lakh per project and @ 33.33 percent of the project cost upto a ceiling of Rs.60 lakh per project for North Eastern States

Annexure-I

Export of Potato During Last Three Years

S. No.	Country	Values in Rs. Lacs 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Quantity (000 Kgs) 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	BAHARAIN	2		41.41			
IS							
2	BANGLADESH		4.85	36.01		160.3	687.32
PR							
3	BELGIUM		5.46			100	
4	CANADA	0.48	0.86		10	23	
5	DENMARK		8.66			200	
6	FRANCE		0			0.16	
7	GERMANY		20.2	8.59		630	200
8	INDONESIA			0.13			3.2
9	ITALY		18.1			388.44	
10	JAPAN		0.11			7	
11	KOREA RP			0.82			18.15
12	KUWAIT		0.17			3.52	
13	MALAYSIA	2.16	5.56	48.72	41	97	686.4
14	MALDIVES	25.18	50.05	93.29	333.33	803.04	1,648.40
15	MAURITIUS	98.89	269.66	180.39	1129.25		3,021.10 1,846.70

16 MOZAMBIQUE 0.13 4
17 NEPAL 501.27 1989.15 1646.19 14687.64 55,234.66 42,604.62
18 NORWAY 0.23 1.46 3 21
19 OMAN 8.37 131.6
20 PAKISTAN 9.54 140
IR
21 QATAR 4.86 2.15 0.12 70 43 2
22 SAUDI ARAB 0.21 0.31 2.54 1.7 9 46.44
23 SEYCHELLES 18.2 105.22 216 1,725.00
24 SINGAPORE 16.17 9.1 53.09 121.13 114.52 487.59
25 SRI LANKA 511.8 245.99 637.38 7800.77 3,816.20 10,567.45
DSR
26 SWITZERLAND 0.11 1
27 U ARAB EMTS 10.49 18.71 4.76 144.9 312.09 121.11
28 U K 10.75 0.36 2.34 24.41 8 42
29 U S A 35.35 800
30 YEMEN 20.32 500
REPUBLC
31 UNSPECIFIED 51.05 1.8 1,200.00 38
Total 1182.37 2,778.65 2,838.85 24365.13 67739.88 61012.54

Source: Website of DGFT

Annexure-II

Export of Tomato During Last Three Years

S. No. Country 2002-03 Values in Rs. Lacs 2003-04 2004-05 2002-03 Quantity (000 Kgs) 2003-04 2004-05

1 BAHARAIN IS 0.09 0.04 0.38 0.38
2 BANGLADESH 1,145.92 416.91 529.35 12,546.69 6,228.06 6,228.06
PR
3 BRUNEI 2.05 10 10
4 TAIWAN 2.9 10 10
5 FINLAND 3.34 35 50
6 ISRAEL 0.41 4.2 10
7 ITALY 14.78 50 34.56
8 KENYA 5.21 10.15 37.54 34.56 14
9 KOREA RP 5.42 2.25 0.74 28 14
10 LATVIA 0.82 5.76 5.76
11 MALAYSIA 0.07 0.21 1.8 1.8
12 MALDIVES 11.65 32.53 8.32 75.38 290.96 290.96
13 NEPAL 3.28 175.57 30.61 74.71 4,356.41 4,356.41
14 NEW ZEALAND 0.16 6 6
15 OMAN 0.2 0.84 0.84
16 QATAR 0.32 8.47 4.31
17 RUSSIA 2.86 21.89 21.89
18 SAUDI ARAB 1.79 0.26 8.03 5.35
19 SINGAPORE 2.36 0.16 31.5 5.35 75
20 SRI LANKA 4.79 3.84 75 34.01
DSR
21 U ARAB EMTS 3.24 2.78 0.73 31.95 34.01
22 U S A 18 0.7 183 183
23 UNSPECIFIED 0.46 0.87 3
Total 1,185.05 685.42 588.36 12886.11 11328.02 11328.02

Source: Website of DGFT

Annexure-III

Import of Potato During Last Three Years

S.No. Country Values in Rs. Lacs 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 Quantity (000 Kgs) 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05

1 BHUTAN 0 122.82 276.09 0 2,329.00 4,813.22
Total 122.82 276.09

Source: Website of DGFT

Annexure-IV

Import of Tomato During Last Three Years

S.No. Country Values in Rs. Lacs 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 Quantity (000 Kgs) 2002-03 2003-04 2004-05

1	ITALY	9.23	2.67	31.6	4.5
2	U S A		0.3		0.96
	Total	9.23	2.97	31.6	5.46

Source: Website of DGFT